

Back Country Byways

BLM

Nevada



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Elko Field Office, 775-753-0200
3900 E. Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801

California Trail Backcountry Byway — The byway begins 25 miles north of Wells off Hwy 93 and traverses ninety-six miles of gravel roads in extreme northeastern Elko County. Over 40 miles of the route from the Winecup Ranch to Little Goose Creek parallels the California National Historic Trail. Trail ruts are still visible in many locations. Trail markers along the route allow visitors an opportunity to walk the same path blazed by nearly 250,000 emigrants 150 years ago. An information kiosk four miles into the byway near the Winecup Ranch provides insight into the history of the area.

Winnemucca Field Office, 775-623-1500
5100 Winnemucca Blvd. Winnemucca, NV 89445

Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway — The byway begins at the Marzen House Museum in Lovelock on the southwest side of town just off I-80. From the Marzen House Museum drive northeast through town to Main Street and turn right, drive two blocks and turn right at Amhearst. After the park, the road becomes South Meridian or State Road 397. The first half of the 20 mile route passes through irrigated fields, then crossing the Humboldt River, the road changes to dirt and the landscape becomes more primitive. The road skirts the base of the West Humboldt Mountains and follows a section of the California National Historic Trail to reach Lovelock Cave, the cradle of Great Basin archaeology. Lovelock Cave yielded thousands of artifacts, including the famous Lovelock Cave duck decoys, baskets and textiles that are now held in museums throughout the United States. Best during the summer and early fall.

Carson City Field Office, 775-885-6000
5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701

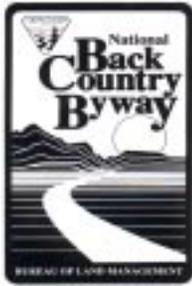
Fort Churchill to Wellington Back Country Byway — The byway begins at Fort Churchill, 35 miles east of Carson City. Fort Churchill was established in 1860 to protect the Pony Express mail line. In 1957, the fort became part of the Nevada State Park system. Leaving the fort, head west on Nevada State Highway 2B for 21 miles along the tree-lined Carson River to Dayton. The road follows the route of the Pony Express National Historic Trail. Turn south at Dayton and travel 29 miles through the rugged Pine Nut Mountains, climbing steeply above Eldorado Canyon and passing through the Como Mining District, and dropping down to Wellington on Hwy 208. Roads can be rough and muddy. Four-wheel drive is recommended on the Dayton to Wellington section.

Ely Field Office, 775-289-1800
702 N. Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301

Mount Wilson Back Country Byway — The byway begins on State Road 322 at Pioche, or off Hwy 93 at the Pony Springs Rest Area, about 22 miles north of Pioche. The byway traverses 66 miles of mostly gravel roads. The route winds through an ancient volcanic caldera now forested in piñon and juniper at the lower elevations and with aspen, mountain mahogany and ponderosa pine at the higher elevations. Spectacular scenery, rich settlement history and water-based recreation opportunities make this byway an ideal adventure destination. The historic mining town of Pioche provides many services. High-clearance vehicles are recommended for travel on the northern half of the byway. Access is very limited during the winter. Route signing is minimal so please obtain a route map from the BLM in Ely.

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Battle Mountain Field Office, 775-635-4000
50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820

Lunar Crater Back Country Byway — The byway begins and ends 75 miles east of Tonopah on Hwy 6. This area contains numerous volcanic features. Byway travelers will be able to explore cinder cones, maars and basalt flows similar to features found on the moon. The first distinctive geologic feature travelers see is Easy Chair Crater. Continuing along the route are sculptured rock formations which lead to Lunar Crater. Lunar Crater was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1973. From the crater's rim visitors can see twenty extinct volcanoes in the nearby hills. High-clearance vehicles are strongly recommended on this unpaved, 24 mile long, dirt road.

Las Vegas Field Office, 702-647-5000
4765 W. Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108

Bitter Springs Trail Back Country Byway — The byway begins at Valley of Fire State Park and is 28 miles long. From Valley of Fire State Park the route runs along the foothills of the Muddy Mountains, through several dry washes, past abandon mining operations and terminates on North Shore Drive in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Verdant desert streams, evidence of borax mining operations and geologic formations rare for this region of Nevada delight byway travelers. Four-wheel drive vehicle is recommended.

Gold Butte Back Country Byway — The byway begins about 90 miles northeast of Las Vegas and 5 miles south of Mesquite/Bunkerville on Interstate 15. The 62 mile scenic trip offers opportunities to see desert wildlife, dazzling red and white sandstone, sinkholes, petroglyph carvings, the Muddy Mountains and Lake Mead. The historic mining town of Gold Butte, established in 1908, is along the route. The primary extractions from Gold Butte are copper, gold, lead and zinc. The last 19 miles of the byway should only be traveled by high-clearance vehicle.

Red Rock Canyon Back Country Byway — The byway is the Scenic Loop Drive at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, off State Route 159. The one-way scenic drive is completely paved and features self-guided trails, picnic areas and vista pullouts. The Visitor Center has audio programs and scheduled interpretive activities about the natural history of the canyon. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is a fee demonstration project area. A fee of \$5 per vehicle is collected at the entrance to the Scenic Loop Drive. All of the money collected remains at the site for improvements.

Surprise Field Office, 530-279-6101
602 Cressler Street, Cedarville, CA 96104

Surprise Valley/Barrel Springs Back Country Byway — This 93-mile driving loop begins and ends in Cedarville, a small community on the east side of the Warner Mountains, about 23 miles east of Alturas. A self-guiding tour booklet, available at the BLM office in Cedarville, guides visitors through historic and scenic communities including Lake City and Fort Bidwell, then into the Great Basin. Stops illustrate the home-steading history of the region, and the geologic forces that helped shape this part of the world. The byway is closed during winter and spring because of heavy snowfall and mud.

Buckhorn Back Country Byway — The byway begins on Highway 447 at the edge of Duck Flat about 40 miles northeast of Gerlach, Nevada. The single lane gravel road climbs to a high plateau of sagebrush-covered, undulating hills and intermittent lakes. Travelers can see the peaks of the South Warner Mountains to the north. The byway ends at Ravendale on Highway 395 between Susanville and Alturas, California. There are good opportunities for wild horse viewing.